

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-against-

JEFFREY GOLDSTEIN,

Defendant.

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KIMBA M. WOOD, United States District Judge:

Defendant seeks to proceed with his sentencing, as previously scheduled, on January 4, 2021. The Government opposes that request, on the ground that it “questions whether the record can support a finding, as required to proceed remotely under Section 15002(b)(2)(A) of the CARES Act, that sentencing ‘cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice.’” (ECF No. 320.) The Government points out that Defendant is not in custody, is not subject to restrictive bail conditions, and will not owe restitution. (*Id.*)

The Court grants conditionally Defendant’s request to proceed with sentencing on January 4, 2021, for the following reasons:

Defendant faces a lengthy sentence, and has waited almost a year to be sentenced, due to the pandemic. His letter to the Court states that this delay, “although reasonable and necessary, has caused significant stress” for Defendant and his family, who do not know the ramifications of his sentencing. (Def. Let. at 3, ECF No. 323.) His letter also states that he has struggled with how to support his family financially, and that the delay has made it difficult for him to transition to a new field of employment. (*Id.*)

In light of the above, the Court finds that there are specific reasons that Defendant’s sentencing in this case “cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice”

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and that the sentencing may be conducted by video teleconference. CARES Act, Pub. L. 116-136 § 15002(b)(2)(A); *see also* Third Amended Standing Order, 20-MC-176 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 18, 2020) (McMahon, C.J.) (finding that proceedings including sentencing “cannot be conducted in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety” and that video teleconferencing may be used in such proceedings with a defendant’s consent, after consultation with counsel, and “upon a finding by the presiding judge that the proceeding cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice”).

This grant is conditioned on Defendant stating, in an Affidavit, that he knows that he is likely to face a much higher rate of contracting the COVID-19 virus if he surrenders to a Bureau of Prisons facility within the next few months, and that he has no intention of seeking release on that ground.

The Court notes that Defendant also has the option of being sentenced on January 4, 2021, and having his surrender date be postponed until a later date.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
December 29, 2020

/s/ Kimba M. Wood
KIMBA M. WOOD
United States District Judge